

KEESLER NEWS

Keesler Air Force Base
Biloxi, Mississippi

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Develop America's Airmen today ... for tomorrow

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Keesler News on Web:
<http://www.keesler.af.mil>

Burger be gone!

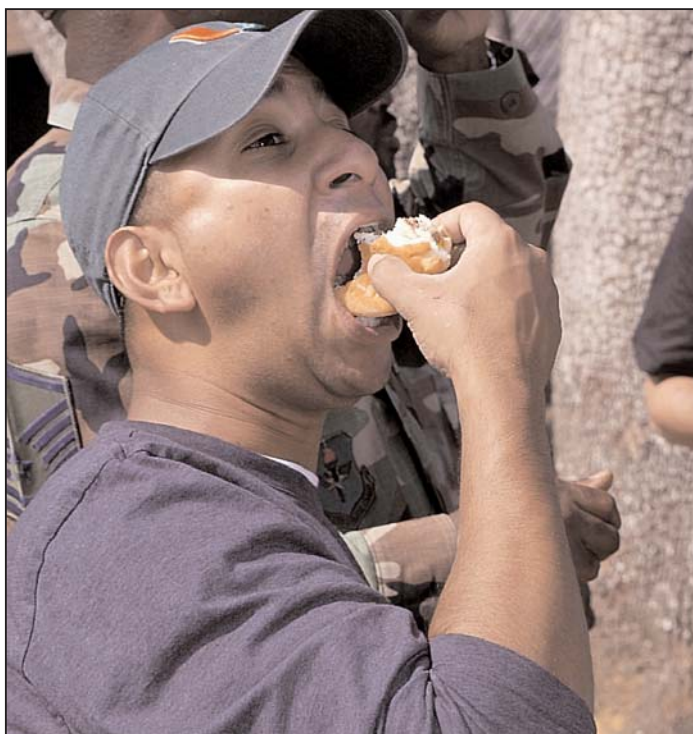


Photo by Kemberly Groue

Tech. Sgt. Ezra Khan, 81st Security Forces Squadron, finishes off a hamburger at Friday's "After Hurricane Katrina Barbecue" in marina park. More photos, Page 16.

Gould succeeds Utterback

2nd Air Force gets new leader

By Staff Sgt. Lee Smith

Keesler News staff

Maj. Gen. Michael Gould takes command of 2nd Air Force, 10 a.m. Nov. 9 on the parade field.

He succeeds Maj. Gen. Loyd "Chip" Utterback, commander of the numbered Air Force for technical training in Air Education and Training Command since July 2004. General Utterback's new assignment is deputy commander of Pacific Air Forces, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

General Gould comes to 2nd Air Force headquarters at Keesler from Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England, where he commanded the 3rd Air Force.

The new leader for 2nd Air Force earned his commission and a bachelor's degree in behavioral science from the Air Force Academy in 1976. Since then, he's commanded an operations group, an air refueling

Please see **Gould**, Page 9

AETC civilians get time-off award

AETC News Service

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — Gen. William Looney, commander of Air Education and Training Command, has approved an 8-hour civilian team time-off award for all civilian employees in recognition of their support of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita recovery operations.

"Although the time off can be used anytime, I'd like to encourage our civilian team mem-

bers to use this award day during one of the scheduled family days before the end of the year to maximize family time and avoid the need to take personal leave," said General Looney.

The general is referring to the family days scheduled for Nov. 14 and 25, and Dec. 23 and 30.

For more information at Keesler, visit the civilian personnel office in old Cody Hall.

Wing change rescheduled

The 81st Training Wing change of command is now 9 a.m. Nov. 15 in Welch Auditorium.

Brig. Gen. Paul Capasso replaces Brig. Gen. William Lord.

COMMENTARY

Thanks, AETC, for support of hurricane recovery efforts

By Gen. William Looney

AETC commander

RANDOLPH Air Force Base, Texas — I can't tell you how proud I am of everyone in Air Education and Training Command for your outstanding support of national recovery efforts after hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the Gulf Coast Region.

Thank you.

Your hard work and generosity continue to make a significant difference. It's wonderful to know that when a crisis or disaster happens, the "First Command" is ready and willing to lean forward to help wherever needed.

Everyone stepped up

Everyone stepped up to the challenge. More than 500 AETC members deployed to support the stateside humanitarian efforts, with thousands more volunteering their services at their bases.

Sixty-six people are still deployed to various locations and willing to stay as long as it takes.

Throughout the command, men, women and children volunteered to help others in their time of need. Whether it was providing food, water and other supplies, or sending equipment and people to assist with recovery efforts, you did an exceptional job.

Hat off to Keesler

My hat goes off to everyone at Keesler and detached units that endured the wrath of Hurricane Katrina. Many experienced significant property losses. With damage to Keesler property estimated at \$800 million, you've experienced losses most of us will never know.

Not only did you experience the wrath of the storm, but you went from being "victims" to being volunteers. Hundreds of Keesler residents, including trainees, are working countless hours getting the base back to normalcy and helping the surrounding communities recover.

Wonderful Keesler stories

Keesler has so many wonderful stories — from a baby delivered by Caesarean section, using flashlights for illumination, to a wedding held outside one of the shelters just days after Hurricane Katrina hit. There are countless other stories of the human spirit overcoming tragedy.

Every AETC base participated in helping those in need, and some are still assisting recovery efforts.

Our airlift at Altus Air Force Base, Okla.,



General Looney

and Little Rock AFB, Ark., transported almost 1.7 million pounds of humanitarian aid, as well as equipment and people to support recovery efforts.

Little Rock was also selected to be the hub for international aid and coordinated the logistics for nearly 4 million pounds of humanitarian aid from countries around the globe.

We set up the Federal Emergency Management Agency at Maxwell AFB, Ala., as the distribution point for supplies and equipment being sent to areas affected by the hurricanes.

Lackland AFB, Texas, partnered with the city of San Antonio to shelter and care for more than 10,000 people displaced by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. These efforts included helping off-load passengers airlifted to the base, providing medical assistance, and transporting displaced persons to shelters and hospitals around the city.

Several other AETC bases housed those displaced by the hurricanes. Many of our folks even opened their homes to those in need. Others left their homes and families to go where their skills were needed.

In appreciation for your hard work, I've designated Nov. 14 as a command down day.

We're truly blessed in this command to have such highly motivated, talented and dedicated warriors who make it happen every day. I couldn't be more proud of the people in this great command. Thank you and keep up the great work.

ACTION LINE ... 377-4357

By Brig. Gen. William Lord

81st Training Wing commander

First, try to work concerns through the proper chain of command. When you've exhausted this recourse, turn to the commander's action line for assistance.

We welcome any suggestions to help make this a more valuable and useful tool. You may call the commander's action line at 377-4357, write to Commander's Action Line, 81 TRW/PA, Keesler AFB, MS 39534-2603, e-mail 81 TRW Commander's Action Line (on-base) or commanders.line@keesler.af.mil (off-base). For a personal response, include your name, address and phone number.

Items of general interest may appear in this column.

IT WEIGHS 68 TONS.

IT CAN CROSS A DESERT AT 40 MPH.

IT CAN HIT A TARGET FROM 2.5 MILES.

WITHOUT EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE, IT MIGHT NOT MOVE AN INCH.

As the American military gets smaller, the role of the National Guard and Reserve has never been greater — and the support of their employers never more critical.

The Guard and Reserve make up half of today's military forces. Along with being trained and ready for combat, they support peacekeeping missions, rescue operations and humanitarian relief efforts. As soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, they'll be in a position to serve our country. As their employer, so will you.

For more information on how you as an employer can help, contact your state committee at our web site: www.esgr.org.

Ad ESGR EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Capt. Richard Vance, a student in the 45th AS from Scott Air Force Base, Ill., does a preflight walkaround as part of his C-21 flight training.

45th Airlift Squadron resumes C-21 training

By Tech. Sgt. Francis Kelly

Keesler Public Affairs

As Katrina prepared to bestow her caress upon Keesler, 45th Airlift Squadron members and their families responded with both resolve and resilience.

Maj. John Papachristian, the unit's operations director, conducted a quartet of C-21A Learjet trainer jets to a safe haven at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. Although based at Keesler, the 45th AS falls under the 314th Airlift Wing at Little Rock.

In the meantime, squadron families evacuated their Keesler homes and drove caravan-style north to Memphis, Tenn.

Lt. Col. Christopher Miceli, 45th AS commander, sheltered in Keesler's command post to assist with the hurricane mission and provide squadron members and their families with updates on Katrina-related developments.

Once the winds calmed and the flood waters receded, normalcy began its return to Keesler and the 45th AS. The recovery process commenced, and the training mission resumed.

According to Colonel Miceli, there was "no significant damage" to Lott Hall, the 45th AS building.

"We lost a 20-foot section of the roof," he said. "This has been temporarily patched and will be permanently repaired by the end of this month."

Despite the damage and destruction to Keesler

homes and offices caused by the Category 4 hurricane, Colonel Miceli indicated there's "no sour attitude, and folks are eager to get back to work."

And with a resolve and resilience similar to that manifested during the hurricane, the 45th AS resumed its training mission Oct. 3 without breaking stride.

"All military folks are back, and all dependents are safe and sound," the colonel reported. "Getting back to training helps folks."

Courtesy of a normal impasse between training cycles, scheduling flexibility and some creative shifting of course modules, not a single training day was lost, he pointed out.

"Flexibility in training is a mission-essential element," Major Papachristian explained. "Even when our squadron was previously deployed to Gulfport for a three-month period during the runway resurfacing here, there was no loss in training."

The 45th AS is responsible for training pilots for the worldwide operational support airlift mission. The unit conducts four C-21A courses — pilot initial qualification, pilot requalification, senior officer and instructor pilot upgrade training for about 200 students each year. Courses range from six days to six weeks.

Formal flight training is conducted here, while academic ground school and flight simulator training are offered by SimuFlite in Dallas under the squadron's oversight.

"Our squadron achieved a 100 percent on-time graduation rate last fiscal year, and we're determined to repeat that success during FY 06," Colonel Miceli stressed. "This is an outstanding squadron."

Major Papachristian noted that while at Little Rock, the 45th AS was also summoned to fly four missions directed by Air Education and Training Command in support of personnel deployments.

"Every member of our squadron faces the daily challenge of balancing training requirements and dealing with hurricane-related personal losses," added Maj. Papachristian.

"The support of the 81st Training Wing has been tremendous," Colonel Miceli remarked. "Civil engineering, billeting, the comm(unications) squadron, services — all base organizations were key to our mission continuation."

As the 45th rebounds, Major Papachristian and Colonel Miceli have welcomed into their homes some squadron members whose own homes were rendered uninhabitable in Katrina's wake.

The squadron has also extended its traditional resolve and resilience to the Biloxi community. Several of its members recently volunteered their services to the Hands-On USA community clean-up of a three-square block East Biloxi neighborhood devastated by the hurricane.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION NOTES

Carey registration

The new registration dates for continuing students at William Carey College are 1-8 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Registration for new students is 1-8 p.m. Nov. 11 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 12.

Registration is at the First Missionary Baptist Church, 1100 East Pass Road, Gulfport.

For more information, call 377-0090.

CCAF postponement

The Nov. 8 Community College of the Air Force graduation will be combined with the spring ceremony.

The postponement is due to the impact of Hurricane Katrina.

For more information, call Becky Green, education office, 377-2323.

PME testing

Professional military education testing is available in Room 118, Airman Leadership School.

To schedule, visit Room 212,

old Cody Hall, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Civilian tuition aid

College tuition assistance is available for permanent civil service employees assigned to Keesler.

Courses must be mission (job) related and taken through a regionally accredited college or university.

For more information, call or visit the education office, 377-2323, Room 212, old Cody Hall.

Troops to Teachers

For general information on Troops to Teachers, visit <http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/ttt/index2.htm>.

For information on Mississippi Troops to Teachers, call Chris Carey, 1-800-MISS-TEACH.

Tuition aid online

Air Force members can now request tuition assistance online.

Members can now accomplish this request directly from their workstation through the Air Force Virtual Education Center.

AFVEC may be accessed

through the Web site, <https://afvec.langley.af.mil> or through the Air Force Portal. Members are required to log on through the Air Force Portal using the portal's reduced sign-on technology. New "My AFVEC" users are required to create an account.

Upon successful registration, Air Force members can select the "Request TA" option to begin the process of requesting tuition assistance. In addition, a PowerPoint tutorial has been made available in this section to provide instructions on how to process an online TA application.

It's important that members know and enter basic course registration information in the online TA request.

Physical therapy class

Applications are accepted through Nov. 25 at the Air Force Personnel Center for the doctor of physical therapy program.

The class begins Dec. 17 at the Health Sciences Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Ravin McCray, 377-9630.

NEWS AND FEATURES

Back in business



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Senior Airman William Chesnutt, 81st Mission Support Squadron, prepares a new identification card for Tech. Sgt. Melissa Gee, 81st Medical Operations Squadron. The military personnel flight's customer service section began processing a backlog of cards Friday, when capability was restored in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The office is now located in old Cody Hall, Room 134. For more information, see Page 19.

A-76 Katrina puts 'indefinite hold' on decision

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Imagine the predicament — you make an offer on a new home, but when you blink your eyes, the roof caves in, the walls collapse and there's just a pile of rubble in its place.

That's a little bit like Keesler's Aug. 16 preliminary cost comparison decision for base operating support services. Hurricane Katrina roared through south Mississippi less than two weeks later, changing the complexion of the base and the scope of support services. After five years of research, planning, proposals and postponements, it was an unexpected development.

"Due to the effects of Hurricane Katrina and the loss of base infrastructure, further analysis is warranted before making a final decision on whether to cancel or continue with the A-76 process," explained Phil Ehemann, chief of Keesler's manpower and quality flight. "The study is on indefinite hold pending completion of that analysis."

The result of the cost comparison divided

base operating support services between a government organization and a contractor.

"Little BOS," which covers most communications functions, was slated to stay in-house with the government's "most efficient organization." The MEO bid was \$54 million to handle the work for 10 years, nearly \$5 million less than a contractor bid. About 175 military and civilian positions are affected.

"Big BOS," which covered such functions as civil engineering, supply, services, weather station and certain mission support functions, was awarded to DynCorp, a CSC company, at a cost of \$280 million over 10 years, a savings of nearly \$56 million over the government's bid. That decision affects 562 military and civilian positions.

The public review period began when the decision was announced Aug. 18 and was scheduled to conclude Sept. 17. If no appeals were received during the period, the next phase was to announce a final decision and begin personnel related actions.

IN THE NEWS

Town hall meeting

A town hall meeting is 2:30 p.m. Oct. 28 at Welch Auditorium.

Topics to be discussed are upcoming changes of command, commissary, base exchange, dependents, schools, claims, assignments, A-76 status, priority technical training, entitlements, housing and dormitory update, lodging, medical care services and humanitarian projects.

Uniform wear guidelines

The 81st Training Wing military members now wear blue uniforms on Mondays and battle dress uniforms the rest of the week.

"As part of our continuing training of nonprior service students, this will ensure they will be trained in the proper wear of that uniform and see us in it," said Brig. Gen. William Lord, 81st TRW commander.

Death notification

The death of Lt. Col. Marc Murphy, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, is announced by Brig. Gen. James Dougherty, 81st Medical Group commander.

Any person or persons having claims for or against the estate of Colonel Murphy, call Lt. Col. Kevin Blakeley, summary court officer, 377-8485.

Killer gets death sentence

Air Force Print News

ROBINS Air Force Base, Ga. — The Airman who was found guilty Oct. 5 of two counts of premeditated murder and one count of attempted premeditated murder, has been sentenced to death by a military panel here.

Senior Airman Andrew Paul Witt, 23, is now the only Airman who will sit on death row. He was transferred to the U.S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan., Tuesday. It's the first Air Force death sentence since 1990, which was set aside on appeal and changed to a life sentence.

Airman Witt is guilty of two specifications of premeditated murder in the July 5, 2004, stabbing deaths of Senior Airman Andrew Schliepsiek and his wife, Jamie. He's also guilty of one specification of attempted premeditated murder in the stabbing attack of then-Senior Airman Jason King.

He won't be executed until all appellate avenues have been exhausted.

Leader for space responsibilities

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Donald Kerr has been appointed assistant to the secretary of the Air Force for intelligence space technology effective Oct. 3.

Mr. Kerr, also the National Reconnaissance Office director, supports the secretary of the Air Force in carrying out his DOD executive agent for space responsibilities.

SARC phone numbers

Keesler's sexual abuse response coordinator hotline numbers are 377-7278 and 697-0562.

The office phone number is 377-8637.

Gould,

from Page 1

wing, an air mobility wing and the Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center.

General Gould's operational and staff assignments include three tours at Air Force headquarters, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., aide to former President George Bush and military assistant to former Secretary of the Air

Force Dr. Sheila Widnall.

He's also served as the director of mobility forces for Operation Joint Endeavor and more recently, as U.S. European Command's Air Expeditionary Task Force commander for the deployment of African Union troops into the Darfur region of the Sudan and as director of operational plans and joint matters, deputy chief of staff for air and space operations, Air Force headquarters.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Editor's note: This column is a service of the Keesler News. Contributors include the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, and the 81st Mission Support Squadron's military and civilian personnel flights.

'People First' expands services

Air Force Print News

LANGLEY Air Force Base, Va. — The Air Force Move Web site "People First" has expanded its services.

Besides the vast personal property links, travelers now have access to a passenger directory to assist with locating the nearest transportation office.

A ground transportation locator has been added to aid in finding local transportation between the installation and nearest commercial airport. Additionally, a kennel locator was developed to assist customers traveling with pets. Other links are also available to enhance the travelers overall moving experience.

New Web-based system for IMAs

Air Force Print News

ROBINS Air Force Base, Ga. — Individual mobilization augmentees have a new way to get military orders through a Web-based system.

Air Reserve Order Writing System-Reserve, which began Oct. 1, allows IMAs to initiate the orders process from any computer worldwide. Units can start using the system as early as Nov. 1, said Air Force Reserve Command officials.

The Web Orders Transaction System was the previous program used by IMAs to generate military orders. They can continue to access it for past duty information but must request all new orders through the new system.

The new system combines the old system and three existing personal computer-based systems to process reservists' orders.

For more information, call the system's help desk, DSN 497-0522; commercial, 1-478-327-0522; or toll-free, 1-800-223-1784, Extension 0522, 1455 or 1258.

Sexual harassment hotline

The Air Force wants military and civilian employees to remain aware of the service's sexual harassment hotline.

The Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, operates the hotline to receive sexual harassment and other forms of discrimination inquiries. The numbers are 1-800-558-1404, DSN 665-2949, or commercial 1-210-565-2949.

An AFPC call center representative answers each call to the hotline. Callers with a sexual harassment or discrimination concern are forwarded to a qualified military equal opportunity counselor.

Counselors ensure callers understand the avenues available to them and complaints are channeled to the proper authority. Counselors take calls during normal duty hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CDT.

After normal duty hours, voice mail is available to leave messages for emergencies.

Temporary duty and test cycles

If members' temporary duty period begins before the testing cycle starts and extends beyond the end of the testing cycle, they should test at the TDY location if facilities are available and requirements permit.

Testing up to 10 days prior to the announced cycle is authorized for members TDY during the entire testing cycle who can't test at their TDY location.

Members who decline to test early when so directed are ineligible for promotion for the remainder of the test cycle.

For more information, see Air Force Instruction 36-2605, Air Force Military Personnel Testing System.

Extended care health option available through Tricare

Air Force Print News

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — Tricare's extended care health option is available for beneficiaries of active-duty family members with defined qualifying conditions.

Beneficiaries currently receiving care through the Program for Persons with Disabilities and not qualified for ECHO continue care through Tricare program options.

This new program delivers financial assistance and additional benefits, including supplies and services, beyond those available within Tricare Prime, Tricare Standard or Tricare Extra. The benefit also increases the monthly government cost share from \$1,000 to \$2,500 per eligible family member. Also, homebound beneficiaries may qualify for extended in-home health care.

Active-duty family members with one of these conditions may qualify for ECHO:

Moderate or severe mental retardation.

Serious physical disability.

Extraordinary physical or psychological condition of such complexity that the beneficiary is homebound.

Multiple disabilities involving two or more separate body systems may result in a qualifying condition.

The health option requires all eligible beneficiaries to enroll in the exceptional family member program of their sponsors' military service and to register with their regional contractor or Overseas Tricare Area Office to obtain ECHO benefit authorization.

To complete exceptional family member program enrollment, eligible beneficiaries must obtain a Defense Department Form 2792, medical summary, and/or DD Form 2792-1, special education/early intervention summary, and submit the forms to their special needs coordinator for processing.

Upon completion of enrollment, the sponsor must show

Tricare at Keesler

Assistance locations

Carolyn James, beneficiary counseling assistance coordinator, and **Ann Larkin**, Humana beneficiary services representative, Room 69J, dental clinic, cell phone number 1-228-596-5931.

Pat Poling, medical and dental registration and eligibility, front desk, dental clinic.

Linda Davis, technical training student Tricare issues, Triangle clinic, 377-8428.

Civilian PCMs

Beneficiaries with civilian primary care managers in Louisiana east of the Mississippi River, south Mississippi and southwestern Alabama don't need referrals until Oct. 31.

Military PCMs

Beneficiaries with military primary care managers in Louisiana east of the Mississippi River and south Mississippi don't need referrals until Oct. 31. This includes care at other locations where individuals may be staying temporarily. Blanket referrals may be eliminated as conditions improve, so beneficiaries are encouraged to re-establish contact with their PCMs as soon as possible.

To minimize potential problems and to reassure the providers they may see during this interim period, beneficiaries are advised to encourage their provider to contact Humana at 1-800-444-5445. Beneficiaries may also use the online resources at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil> or <http://humana-military.com> to find providers in other locations.

Pharmacy

The Keesler pharmacy is working with the Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, pharmacy and the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Biloxi to provide refill prescription services.

Patients in the immediate area call the Keesler pharmacy's automated prescription refill system, 377-6360.

Patients in Alabama, Florida and Mississippi call 1-800-443-6564.

Refills are sent overnight to the Keesler pharmacy at the VA for pickup at Building 5, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Allow four days from activation to pickup.

Patients must present their current, valid military identification. Those picking up prescriptions for someone else must provide written authorization.

proof of enrollment to the regional contractor for registration into the ECHO program. The Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System is then updated to indicate the beneficiary is eligible.

Beneficiaries must use public funds or programs first to the extent they're available and adequate for ECHO benefits related to training, rehabilitation, special education, assistive technology devices, institutional care in private, nonprofit, public, state institu-

tions or other medical facilities and if appropriate, transportation to and from such institutions and facilities.

For more information about ECHO benefits, eligibility requirements, updates and EFMP registration, refer to the ECHO Fact Sheet or visit <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/echo>.

Beneficiaries may also call the Tricare Regional Office North, 1-877-874-2273; TRO South, 1-800-444-5445 or TRO West 1-888-874-9378.

Assistance offered in replacing CCAF diplomas

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

Hurricane Katrina's floods and winds ripped away many prized possessions, but the proof of some your academic accomplishments can be replaced.

Students whose diplomas from Community College of the Air Force or professional military education were lost or damaged due to the hurricane, call the education office, 377-2171, for replacement information.

Here is a listing of other available assistance.

Air Force Aid Society

Information and assistance is available in Room 118, old Cody Hall.

The Air Force Aid Society has established a nationwide relief fund to help Air Force families affected by the hurricane. For credit card donations, call 1-703-607-3073 or 1-800-769-8951 or donate online at <http://www.afas.org>. Checks should be made out to Air Force Aid Society and reference the hurricane relief fund.

American Red Cross

Any permanent party resident living in the Hurricane Katrina disaster area and not receiving subsistence-in-kind is entitled to a Hurricane Katrina check voucher. To verify eligibility and determine entitlement amounts, call 1-800-975-7585.

American Legion

Current American Legion members who are active-duty members or belong to the National Guard or Reserves impacted by Hurricane Katrina may qualify for cash grants up to \$1,500. Apply by phone, 1-800-433-3318, or online, <http://www.legion.org>.

Area Defense Counsel

Keesler's office is now in Room 174, Thomson Hall. The office, an independent office of the Air Force Legal Services Agency, provides representation for investigations, administrative actions and discharges, nonjudicial punishment, courts-martial and other adverse actions.

For appointments, call 377-8029.

AAFES

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is waiving interest and suspending monthly payments for an unspecified period to Exchange Credit Program cardholders displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Credit limit increases of up to \$500 are offered on accounts in good standing.

For more information or to update contact information, call 1-877-991-



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Jan Oglesby, left, and Liz Sullivan, 81st Medical Operations Squadron, sort clothes at the family support center's Airmen's Attic in the former Chapel 1 adjacent to Sablich Center. The facility, open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. working Fridays, has clothing, food, baby items and cleaning supplies for all ranks.

7827 or visit <http://www.aafes.com>.

BAS

A Sept. 27 Department of Defense memo authorizes Airmen assigned to Keesler to receive free meals without a reduction in their basic allowance for subsistence for 60 days to lessen financial hardship due to the hurricane.

Bus transportation

Coast Transit Authority is offering free transportation on the following fixed routes.

Pascagoula-Gautier Route 80 runs 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays. For more information, call 875-8070.

Pass Christian, Long Beach, Gulfport, Biloxi, D'Iberville and Ocean Springs routes run 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. For more information call 896-8080. Specialized medical transportation is also available on this route at the same times and days. For more information call 896-4010.

Civilian assistance

The Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund Emergency Assistance Program may provide assistance to federal civilian employees affected by Hurricane Katrina.

For more information, go to <http://www.feea.org/emergency.shtml> or

call Sheila Noel, 377-7973.

Civilians can also call 1-800-307-3298 or visit <http://www.opm.gov> to connect with department or agency contacts and obtain information on various benefits.

Civilian counseling

Civilian employees and their families are eligible for six free post-hurricane counseling sessions.

For more information, call Larry Williams, 377-4638.

Extended child care

Military and civilians affected who are eligible for on-base day care and work more than 50 hours a week are eligible for free or subsidized child care under the Air Force's extended duty child care program.

For more information, call 377-3189 or 5935.

FEMA

Homeowners, renters and businesses in the areas can apply for federal assistance by registering online with the Federal Emergency Management Agency at <http://www.fema.gov>, or by calling 1-800-621-3362, or 1-800-462-7585 for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free numbers are available 24/7.

Food stamps

For more information, visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/>.

Government travel card

The government travel card, for official travel expenses while in a travel status, isn't authorized for use at Keesler.

Personnel who lost their card during the storm must report the loss and request a new card immediately.

Dependents aren't authorized to use their members' card. They can get advances at the nearest base to the "safe haven" location. If there's no base nearby, work through the finance office at Keesler for advances or accruals.

The 90-day grace period for payment of government travel card accounts began Sept. 23.

People who used government travel cards for prepaid transactions that weren't used as a result of Hurricane Katrina can dispute the charge for credit. Before filing a dispute, try to contact the merchant to see if charges can be credited to the account. If that isn't possible, submit the dispute form found at <https://www.gcsthhd.bankofamerica.com/forms/maintenance.asp>.

Please see **Assistance**, Page 13

Assistance,

from Page 12

Use reason code 10 for "other" and use your own words to reference Hurricane Katrina. To fax the form, call 1-888-678-6046.

Income tax relief

The Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005 postpones deadlines for affected taxpayers to file tax returns, pay taxes and perform other time-sensitive acts until Feb. 28.

Some taxpayers receive automatic relief, while others

must identify themselves as impacted by Hurricane Katrina. Taxpayers who need to identify themselves as hurricane victims should write "Hurricane Katrina" in red ink at the top of their tax forms or any other documents filed with the IRS.

Deadline postponement, interest suspension and waiver of penalties apply to any tax return, payment or deposit with an original or extended due date falling on or after Aug. 29.

In Florida, where Katrina first hit, the date is on or after Aug. 24. For victims of Hurricane Rita, deadlines

were also extended to Feb. 28.

For more information, call 1-866-562-5227.

Leave transfer

Civilian employees may donate unused annual leave to other employees adversely affected by the hurricane so they won't have to use their own annual or sick leave.

Up to 104 hours of leave can be donated, but it can't be contributed to a specific person. Submit an Office of Personnel Management Form 1638 through the civilian personnel flight.

Natural disaster form

The Air Force Personnel Readiness Center has established a natural disaster registration form at <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/ndw>, for evacuation and safe haven information.

For more information, call 1-800-435-9941.

OneSource

Air Force OneSource offers 24/7 support and advice on how to tap into resources available

through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Air Force Aid Society and American Red Cross. Call 1-800-707-5784 or visit <http://www.airforceone.source.com>. Use "airforce" as user ID and "ready" as password.

Retirees, annuitants

Military retirees and annuitants who've relocated or changed banking information, call 1-800-321-1080, 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. weekdays. They can also use myPay to update information; call 1-800-390-2348. Changes to mailing and banking information can be sent by fax to 1-800-469-6559, with "Hurricane Katrina" at the top of the page and a contact phone number listed.

Salvation Army

For assistance, visit <http://www.salvationarmyusa.org>.

SBA

The Small Business Administration has more than 2,300 loan officers, damage inspectors, loan closers and customer service staffers available 12 to

14 hours a day, seven days a week, in 103 disaster recovery centers located in the Gulf States, and in its loan processing center, customer service center, and disaster field offices in Atlanta and Sacramento. Loan closing centers have been established in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi to expedite loan closings and disbursements.

The SBA offers loans of up to \$200,000 to repair disaster damaged primary residences. Homeowners and renters are eligible for loans up to \$40,000 to replace personal property such as furniture and clothing. Interest rates can be as low as 2.68 percent for homeowners and renters, and amounts and terms of the loans are based upon each applicant's financial condition.

For more information, call 1-800-659-2955 daily from 6 a.m. to 1 a.m., email questions to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov, or visit the Web site at <http://www.sba.gov/disaster>.



Timber!

Not all hurricane tree damage is obvious or predictable, as demonstrated by this tree limb which fell about 11:30 a.m. Sunday on Harmon Circle in Bay Ridge housing area. Lt. Col. Lawrence Averbek, 81st Training Wing safety chief, noted that the large limb had green leaves and no visible cracks or sagging, and could've killed or injured anyone who was walking underneath. When walking, jogging or playing near trees, the colonel said people need to use situational awareness and be prepared to move quickly.

Photo by
Lt. Col. Lawrence Averbek

Base facilities update

First aid station relocates to medical center

By Senior Airman Sarah Stegman
Keesler News staff

The first aid station has moved from the clinical research laboratory to the former emergency room in the medical center.

It's open 24 hours, seven days a week. However, the station doesn't have emergency services.

For emergencies, call 911 or go to the nearest off-base hospital.

The level of services hasn't changed from their previous location at the clinical research lab.

Basic radiology support, including ultrasounds, and anatomical pathology are also located in the former ER.

Other open base facilities include:

81st Services Division

Family child care has five providers accepting children in their homes.

Space is available for five children under age 2, and seven children ages 3 and older.

Children are also being accepted at the mildly-ill family child care home.

For more information, call 377-3189.

People interested in becoming licensed family child care providers, call the FCC office, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Child development center — 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Space is available at the CDC and for the preschool program. For more information, call 377-2211.

McBride Library — 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday and noon to 7 p.m. Friday-Sunday. A fax service and copy machine are available for a nominal fee; videos and DVD movies available and free Internet service.

Fam camp — available for mission-essential active-duty, civilian and contractors, and non-mission essential active-duty who've been displaced. For more information, call 594-0543.

Blake Fitness Center — 4:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Mondays-through working Fridays; 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. non-working Friday; 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

Inns of Keesler — open 24 hours.

Muse Manor mini-mart — 7 a.m. to midnight daily.

Vandenberg Community Center — open for E-4 and below 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 10 a.m. to midnight Friday-Saturday.

Half Time Café — 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday-Saturday and noon to 5 p.m.



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Staff Sgt. Doren Kolasa, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron, checks a crash kit at the first aid station, which is now located in the former emergency room of the medical center.

Sunday.

Auto skills center — 1-7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Car wash is open 24/7.

Youth activities center — 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. workdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays.

Before and after school program is 6-8:30 a.m. and 3:30-6 p.m. for children in kindergarten through grade 6.

Gaudé Lanes — 5-10 p.m. Monday-Friday; 3-10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Open to Keesler person-

nel and relief workers only.

Katrina Kantina — 5 p.m. to midnight Thursdays-Saturdays for E-5 and above in the main marina building.

Information, ticket and travel office — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays-working Fridays; located in the customer service area of Vandenberg Community Center.

Bay Breeze Golf Course, Dragon and Triangle fitness centers, arts and crafts center, the marina, Keesler Club, Warrior lounge and Keesler Com-

munity Center are closed.

AAFES

Home furnishings store — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily; located at 220 Ploesti Drive with an entrance on Hercules Drive.

Military clothing sales — 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday; located in the mini-mall on Ploesti.

Mini-mall — 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

Seattle's Best Coffee — 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the mini-mall.

Service station — attended fueling 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Unattended fueling available 24 hours a day.

Service bays are open 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

Retail store hours are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Subway — 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Dawg Daze hot dog cart — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Welch Auditorium — Movies are shown 7 p.m. Friday; 2 and 7 p.m. Saturday.

Triangle barber shop — 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Beauty shop — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

Triangle laundry and dry cleaners — noon to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Triangle alteration shop — noon to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday.

At Ease embroidery/unit apparel — noon to 7 p.m. daily.

Czee Zone Internet Café — 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

The main exchange, dorm shoppette, Class Six/shoppette and medical center exchange are closed indefinitely.

Banking

Keesler Federal Credit Union — open for limited service, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Keesler's branch is operating in an off-line mode, but can handle cash withdrawals or checks up to \$400 per person per day.

New accounts can be opened for base personnel and temporary tenants such as FEMA, MEMA and Red Cross.

Please see **Facilities**, Page 15

Facilities,

from Page 14

BancorpSouth — base branch open for limited service, 9 a.m. to noon Monday-Friday with limited services.

Safe deposit box access available, as well as teller window services, but no customer service desk or account opening capabilities are available at this time.

Dining facilities

Live Oak — breakfast 5:15-7:15 a.m., lunch 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and dinner 5-7 p.m.; closed on weekends and holidays.

Pecan — breakfast 5:15-7:45 a.m., lunch 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and dinner 5-7 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Weekend and holiday hours: breakfast 7:30-9 a.m. lunch 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and dinner 4:30-6:30 p.m. Open for the 403rd Wing UTA 6:30-7:30 a.m. Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

Azalea — breakfast 4:15-7 a.m., lunch 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and dinner 5:30-7:30 p.m.; closed on weekends and holidays.

Magnolia — breakfast 4:15-6 a.m. lunch 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and dinner 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Weekend and holiday hours: breakfast 7:30-9 a.m., lunch 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and dinner 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Flight kitchen — open around the clock.

There's a charge for meals for people not on meal cards or government meal orders.

Spouses and dependent children of active-duty personnel E-1 through E-4 pay a la carte less the surcharge.

Personnel on temporary duty to Keesler drawing per diem, dependents of all other active-duty personnel, Defense Department employees, other federal employees at Keesler and base contract personnel pay a la carte plus the surcharge.

Gates

Oak Park Gate is open, 5:30-7:30 a.m. and 3:30-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, to help alleviate traffic due to the closure of Highway 90. The Pass

Road and White Avenue and Meadows Drive gates are open around the clock. The Judge Sekul Gate is closed.

Housing

The housing office in Chapel One is reassigning homes to families whose base housing is uninhabitable.

For a list of available off-base housing, call Mary Krystosek, 377-9741.

The office is the focal point for military housing residents to request portable storage units or labor assistance.

Immunization clinic

The immunization clinic is now located in Pod H at the dental clinic. All vaccines for physical health assessments and well-baby visits are available, except for meningitis. Flu vaccines are expected in mid-November. For more information, call 377-6543.

Outdoor recreation

Outdoor recreation is now located in Building 6734, the enclosed pavilion in marina park.

Katrina Kantina, a lounge for E-5 and above, is in the main marina building.

For more information, call 377-3160.

Moves

Family support center — now located on the first floor of old Cody Hall. A student office remains open in the Fishbowl.

In Chapel One, an annex is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays with clothing, food, baby and cleaning items for all ranks.

Finance — now located on the second floor of the Vosler Center. Hours of operations are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. working Fridays.

For military and travel pay questions, call 377-7272 or 4212.

Legal office — aid is available 9 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. workdays in Room 246, Levitow Training Support Facility.

A claims briefing is 10 a.m. daily, with filing from 8 a.m. to noon.

For appointments, call 377-3510. For Katrina claims, call

Taking a load off



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Staff Sgt. Michael Cleveland, 81st Civil Engineer Squadron, removes debris from the Pinehaven housing area. Normal garbage pickup has resumed for all base housing neighborhoods. Garbage is collected Monday and Thursday in East Falcon Park, West Falcon Park, Thrower Park and Oak Park, and Tuesday and Friday in Maltby Hall, Bay Ridge, Shadowlawn, Pinehaven and Harrison Court. Storm debris is collected in this order: East and West Falcon, Bay Ridge, Thrower Park, Pinehaven and Harrison Court. It's expected to take about seven days for the initial cleanup in each neighborhood. The contractor doesn't pick up refrigerators, tires, lawn mowers or any item containing hazardous materials unless it has been properly and legally purged. Residents are asked to separate appliances, storm and construction debris and place within six feet of the curb. To schedule hazardous material disposal, call Tom Minton, 377-3004 or 348-0864. For more information, call 377-2948.

377-3630. The fax number is 377-3630.

Personal finances — The personal financial management program is now located in old Cody Hall, Room 119. For more information, call 377-8601 or 2179.

Personnel offices — now located in Room 218, old Cody Hall. The civilian personnel office has relocated to the Airman Leadership School building.

Retirees, annuitants — the retiree activities center has moved from Thrower Park to Room 104, old Cody Hall.

TMO — The traffic management office for technical training students in Room 211, Levitow Training Support

Facility, is open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, call 377-0174, 1263, 7448 or 3147.

The main TMO has returned to Sablich Center, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Phone numbers are inbound personal property, 377-7813 or 7811; outbound counselors, 377-7815, 7817 or 7818; outbound documentation, 377-2326 or 2446; non-temporary storage, 377-7810; quality assurance, 377-2969 or 9222; passenger travel, 377-2600; N&N Travel, 432-5825; TMO officer and administrative staff, 377-7825.

Pets

Veterinary clinic — 8 a.m. to noon, Mondays-Fridays, for

over-the-counter sales.

For appointments to have pets vaccinated or for sick pets, call 377-6883.

Self-help store

The store's open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday for facility managers, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday for housing residents. It's also open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays.

Limited quantities of standard store stock items are available, such as rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows and other yard equipment.

Electric power washers were undamaged, as well as most hand tools.

For more information, call 377-5397.



Photos by Kemberly Groue
Tech. Sgt. Mark Morris, left, 81st Supply Squadron, and Staff Sgt. Brandon Ferris, 81st Training Wing, help themselves to some hot dogs, hamburgers and baked beans at the barbecue Friday.

Operation Comic Relief comes to Keesler today

The base hosts a free adult comedy show 7 p.m. today at the parade grounds behind the Levitow building near the Fishbowl.

Operation Comic Relief features three adult comedians. Military members, family members and Department of Defense civilians are invited.

Food and beverages are provided by the 81st Services Division and the Top 3 Association. It's recommended that people bring blankets and lawn chairs. Bleachers may also be provided.

Shuttle buses leave for the show from Muse Manor and Tyer House from 6-7 p.m., and for returning personnel from 9-10:30 p.m.

The comedians include Craig Gass, who has appeared on television shows Las Vegas and Law and Order; Reverend Bob Levy, frequent guest on the Howard Stern Show; and Keith Purnell, who appeared in Dead Poet's Society.

The following are other events that are taking place or have been postponed or cancelled due to Hurricane Katrina:

Salute to the Military — scheduled for Monday at Mississippi Gulf Coast Coliseum, is Nov. 15 at the Navy Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport.

Women's Equality Day luncheon — scheduled for August, cancelled.

2006 Operational Readiness Inspection — scheduled for April, has been cancelled. The AETC IG office will notify the base one year before the base's next ORI to prepare.

Youth activities center — lights on after-school celebration, and school age program open house, 5 p.m. today. Parents invited to stop by and enjoy refreshments, a tour of the facility, and obtain information on the center's activities.

Super Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for ages 6 and older. No entry fee.

Oct. 29, Halloween party with prizes for best costume.

Family teen and talent contest 2 p.m. Nov. 5. Family, youth and teen acts participate in the contest. Registration deadline is Nov. 3. Winners go to Air Education and Training Command and Air Force levels via videotape.

For more information, call 377-4116.



Maj. Teresa Roberts, 81st Mission Support Squadron, demonstrates her hula hoop talent during the barbecue Friday.



Addison Blissmer, 2, goes through an obstacle course set up for children at the marina playground area during the after-Katrina barbecue Friday. Blissmer is the daughter of Amy and Staff Sgt. Eric Blissmer, 336th Training Squadron.

NCO learns teamwork lessons in Afghanistan

By Susan Griggs

Keesler News staff

After more than 14 years in the Air Force, Tech. Sgt. Ron Drake had never been deployed, so he volunteered to spend four months at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

Sergeant Drake, an instructor in the 336th Training Squadron for the past two years, deployed in May to serve as noncommissioned officer in charge of the 455th Civil Engineer Squadron's third country national escort element. He returned to Keesler soon after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

No 'expert' escort

"TCN escort duty is unique in the sense that you get people from all kinds of career fields, so there is no 'expert,'" he explained. "We all worked together to figure it out. I learned a lot about how to deal with individuals and make our team mesh together.

"I coordinated the taskings for the escorts with the contractor and ensured coverage and security were maintained," he said. "I scheduled our folks, logged events of importance and helped out on the line on a daily basis. The most challenging part of the job was to keep my troops happy and content while maintaining proper discipline and security at the site.

"Escorts were constantly undermanned, so we had many weeks in a row where we were working continuously," the sergeant continued. "The troops that worked for me were great. We worked together and adapted very well to an environment that is less than stellar, especially considering that most of my troops hadn't spent a great deal of time on a flight line, driving Humvees and maintaining a security perimeter."

Afghan 'jewel'

Bagram is considered the "jewel" of Afghan bases, according to Sergeant Drake, with a Subway shop, Baskin-Robbins, pizza place and Korean restaurant.

He said the quality of the food at the four dining facilities was good, but lines were long, with more than 3,000 personnel to serve.

Troops were housed in "B huts" constructed of wood with six rooms which offered some privacy, but the heat, high winds, sand and debris were tough obstacles to overcome.

"The recreational areas were nice — an activities tent, a movie room with a big screen, some nice patio areas where a projector is brought out for movies and very good gym facilities," Sergeant Drake noted. "But there were only four morale phones



Photo by Kemberly Groue
Sergeant Drake, left, answers questions for Airman 1st Class Chris Rittenback, one of his students in the communications-computer systems control course in Thomson Hall.

— one was broken most times — for more than 800 people to share."

Sergeant Drake worked with Afghan nationals on a daily basis and remarked, "I didn't meet one Afghanistan citizen that wasn't pleasant or didn't want to see us here. There were plenty outside Bagram — we had demonstrations right outside the gate — but the ones that worked with us were very nice."

The Afghans were curious about Americans. Some asked personal questions and others just stared.

"I had a conversation with a worker who spoke no English, but used his friend as an interpreter," Sergeant Drake recalled. "He asked me about my family and I asked him the same.

In the end, we were very similar — we both had three children, all boys.

"Sometimes outside the fence I'd see children sitting in mud huts or in

the dirt, and I do feel that we are doing the right thing to try to help this country," he pointed out. "They seem so far behind us technologically. I don't think my kids could even fathom how they live there, yet they seemed very content with their lives. Hopefully we'll help them more and more as things progress here."

Sergeant Drake's most memorable experience was also his saddest.

"Our commander, Maj. (Matthew) Conlan, and two others were injured on an explosive ordnance disposal de-mining run," he said. "There were major injuries, but no one died, thank God. Everyone came together and helped each other deal with the situation.

"Major Conlan didn't want to leave us, but I still remember the day when we helped load the two that needed air evacuation out of the area

on the plane — I will never forget his face as he said goodbye."

Although Sergeant Drake missed his family more than anything else, "Another thing I missed was fresh bread. The bread was always stale and made for some nasty sandwiches. I also missed being able to go where I wanted to go when I wanted to go."

While he was deployed, his wife, Trinetta, took care of their children while continuing her job as a military pay technician with the 403rd Wing. Their two sons are Jordan, 11, and Aaron, 9. Sergeant Drake's oldest son, Zackary, is 13.

Filling Dad's shoes

"Ron is an all-around good guy and an involved father," Mrs. Drake commented. "He's the cook in our family and the boys' best friend, and it was a challenge trying to be both mom and dad to two boys for the summer. I found that as long as the boys were together, they did OK — they were each other's support system."

Mrs. Drake said the most difficult thing about her husband's deployment was missing her best friend.

"Some good things came out of his deployment, but the loneliness I felt was intense," she continued. "My family, friends, and co-workers were great, but that type of loneliness only my husband, my best friend, could fill. Ron and I are used to talking several times a day, and not being able to talk to him whenever I wanted to was probably the most difficult thing. I'm a strong person, but I found an inner strength I didn't know I had."

Katrina challenges

Mrs. Drake had to draw on that strength in late August when Hurricane Katrina targeted south Mississippi.

"I went to bed that Saturday night thinking, 'It's only a Category 3 storm — we are going to ride this out,'" she recalled. "Then, when I turned on the TV Sunday morning and saw it was a Category 5 storm, my children and I quickly boarded up the house, packed the suitcase and were on our way.

"We originally evacuated to Graceville, Fla. to my in-laws' house but then moved to a semi-permanent place in Destin, Fla.," she added. "It was an interesting experience."

In spite of the challenges, Sergeant Drake is glad he was able to deploy.

"I needed to learn how the air expeditionary force truly works and to pay my dues, so to speak," he stressed. "It's helped me grow as an NCO, a person and a husband. It's brought my wife and me closer, even though we were thousands of miles apart."

Sexual assault video must viewing for Airmen

**Air Force Print News
and Keesler News staff**

WASHINGTON — A new training video recently distributed to the Air Force through vice wing commanders is required viewing for all Airmen.

Airmen must view the new video, "Targeting Sexual Assault" as part of a larger campaign to educate Airmen about the realities of sexual assault, the prevention responsibilities of every Airman and the efforts the Air Force is making to enhance prevention and response capabilities, said Charlene Bradley, who led the Air Force task force review and program development.

"At Keesler, each unit views the video on an individ-

ual basis," said Liz Waters, the base's sexual assault response coordinator. "We're in the process of contacting them to set up a schedule."

The training video features important messages by former Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper, Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray and Lt. Gen. Roger Brady, deputy chief of staff of the Air Force for personnel. Those messages focus heavily on Air Force core values, on the "Wingman" concept and on respect for each other.

"We must ensure that every Airman understands that sexual assault is a crime and an egregious breach of our core values," General Brady said.

"Our respect for ourselves, each other and our Air Force, are principles in our core values, violated when Airmen take advantage of other Airmen."

The video features a dramatized a rape scenario, where mutual friends introduce two Airmen to each other. The fact the two know each other is important, Ms. Bradley said, because it dispels a common myths about rape.

"The biggest myth is that rapists wear ski masks and jump out of bushes — that they are the only rapists," Ms. Bradley said.

The reality is that most rapists aren't strangers, but someone the victim knows. The video helps educate

Airmen about that fact, and also helps dispel other myths about rape, said Claudia Bayliff, the new Air Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program chief.

"Approximately 85 percent of rapists are somebody known to the victim," Ms. Bayliff explained. "Another myth about rape is that the victim is somehow responsible, the victim provoked it or caused it."

"In addition, many think that non-stranger rapes are just a 'miscommunication,' or that they are caused by too much alcohol," she said. "What we are trying to show with the video is that these non-stranger rapes are usually premeditated."

The video also helps viewers

understand the role of facilitators and bystanders — individuals who either consciously perpetuate an environment that enables non-stranger rapists to function by offering encouragement and failing to act, or by having knowledge and failing to intervene. The goal is to teach Airmen how to intervene to protect each other.

Also part of the training film is a discussion on the Air Force's implementation of the Department of Defense's restricted reporting policy, and the Air Force's new Sexual Assault Response Coordinator program.

— Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez, Air Force Print News, and Susan Griggs, Keesler News staff, contributed to this report.

KEESLER NOTES

ID cards

The customer service desk at the military personnel flight is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday in old Cody Hall to process

identification cards.

Waste collection

Household hazardous waste is collected at Building 4420, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday.

Under some circumstances, pickup can be arranged by calling 377-3004. Use the same phone number for information on items that can and cannot be brought to the site.

GriefShare

GriefShare, a grief support group for military or civilian members who've experienced death, divorce or other major losses, meets 10 a.m. Sunday in the Larcher Chapel's bridal room.

The group is sponsored by the 11:30 a.m. inspirational gospel service.

For more information, call Glenda Woodard, 377-5032, or 1st Lt. Winston Jones, 377-2761.

Stray animals

The 81st Security Forces Squadron impounds stray animals and responds to complaints of strays.

Once an animal is captured, it's government property until released to authorities. Owners are required to retrieve their animals from authorities.

If the owner is located, 81st SFS officials prepare and send a stray animal form letter to the owner's commander.

For more information, call Army Staff Sgt. John Venturelli, veterinary treatment facility, 377-3963.

Preschool program

The part-day preschool program has openings for 3-5-year-olds in the 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-3:30 p.m. sessions.

Classes are Mondays through working Fridays at the youth center. They're suspended on federal holidays and during Christmas holiday closings observed by coast schools.

Enrollment is at the child development center.

For more information, call 377-2211.

KOSC activities

For information on Keesler Officers Spouses Club activities, call Michelle Harper, 327-6848.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Air Force marathon

Keesler relay team finishes in third place for AETC at annual event

By Staff Sgt. Lee Smith

Keesler News staff

A coed Keesler relay team chosen to represent Air Education and Training Command finished third in the Air Force Marathon Sept. 17.

Keesler's marathon team, consisting of Maureen Koch, 81st Mission Support Group; Max Lemons, 335th Training Squadron; Zachary Wallick, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron; and Guadalupe Vasquez, 81st Communications Squadron, finished in a time of 2 hours, 58 minutes and 10 seconds at the ninth annual event at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

The foursome ran relay legs of five, seven, 7.5 and 6.7 miles, respectively.

The team submitted an Air Force Form 303 to AETC headquarters which listed the runners' results from recent races.

Every AETC base could submit a team, and AETC chose Keesler to represent the command based on its forms as the team having the best chance to win.

Unexpected result

For the most part, the runners were surprised at their performance.

"I knew we had a good shot at placing," said Koch. "I figured we would place in the top ten because of our abilities. I didn't imagine that we would be one of the top three."

"There were 110 (coed) teams overall, and we came in third," said Lemons. "Not a bad showing."

"I had no idea how we would fare during the event," said Wallick. "Honestly, after Katrina hit, I wasn't sure that we would even make the trip to Wright-Patterson, so I was just happy to be there."

A couple of the runners had previous marathon experience, but all of them were



Photo by Kemberly Groue

Maureen Koch, left, Guadalupe Vasquez, Max Lemons and Zachary Wallick.

competing in the Air Force Marathon for the first time.

"I did the Honolulu Marathon in Hawaii and the Midnight Sun Marathon in Alaska, both in 1996," said Lemons.

"I ran while I was in high school and college," said Wallick.

"I've competed in five marathons, the last one in 1988," said Koch. "This, however, was the first team marathon event I have been a part of and it is much easier than running in the entire event."

Katrina halts training

Hurricane Katrina hit here Aug. 29, approximately three weeks before the marathon. All of the runners were unable to properly prepare for the event, but each was able to focus when the time came to run.

"We were planning to train for the event," Koch said. "After the hurricane hit, we just weren't able to do that."

"We weren't able to focus leading up to the event," said Vasquez. "I went to North Carolina before the hurricane. We weren't even sure we would be competing."

"I evacuated to Florida," said Lemons. "It wasn't easy to train and take care of our families in strange places. Koch and Wallick stayed here and worked their tails off getting Keesler back together. They didn't get to run at all. After the storm, we just wanted to run as best we could."

"I sprained my ankle five weeks before the event, which made it painful for me to run," said Wallick. "I wasn't sure what to expect for the event."

Familiar faces

Some of the team members were already familiar with each other before the team was fielded.

"Keesler sports psychologist Tim Cline wanted to put together a group from here to submit to AETC," said

Lemons. "He and I put our heads together to field a team that had potential. I've known (Maureen) Koch for 15 years; the other members I had met at local races and running on base for the last year or so."

"I met (Capt.) Lemons at the Blueberry Festival 5K in Poplarville, Ms.," said Wallick. "I met Vasquez through a mutual friend at a race in Fort Walton Beach, Fla."

2006 marathon?

Each of the runners had a positive experience at the event and would like to do it again.

"I would love to run in next year's marathon," said Wallick.

"I am considering competing again next year," Lemons said. "The Dayton, Ohio, area is beautiful and the course runs around and through the base."

"I would love to be a part of the marathon again next year," Koch said. "I don't

know if the other members will be here or not; if the opportunity presents itself, I will be there."

Other results

Overall, 3,454 runners from all 50 states and seven other countries competed in the marathon.

The AETC men's marathon team took first place in the men's open relay category and sixth place overall out of 223 other teams.

The AETC men's relay team from Laughlin AFB, Texas, ran the 26.2 mile course in 2:50.11, while the AETC women's relay team from Lackland AFB, Texas, ran the course in 4:11.12.

The first Air Force Marathon was held in 1997 in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the Air Force.

It takes place on the Saturday nearest the anniversary on Sept. 18 every year.

The 10th annual Air Force Marathon will be Sept. 16, 2006.

DIGEST

HONORS

Student honor roll

332nd Training Squadron

Electronic principles — Airmen Basic Aaron Amdrus, Buddy Franklin, Daniel Carr, James Gardner, Scott Gingrich, Derek Gordon, Christopher Mahoney, Matthew Metzger, Calvin Meneses, Robert Miller, Alan Peterson, Nathan Septon and Ryan Stome; Airmen Alex Cousins, Benjamin Halaszynski, James Little, Roderick Quinto and Joseph Skopic; Airmen 1st Class Amy Childers, Patrick Crawford, Rebecca Hogue, Ansil Howard, Jeremy James, Jose Navarro, Michael Nieves and Jerome White-side; Staff Sgts. Dante Adams and Joshua Birch.

334th TRS

Air traffic control operations training flight — Airmen Basic Nathan Baker, Trevor Breen, Andrew Cieslinski, Bethany Colson, Jason Eastwood, Jeremy Elhers, Stephanie Ferrel, Evan Gabler, Jason Hahn, Timothy Hall, Richard Hawkins, Justin Jimenez, Brandon Lewis, Nicholas May, John Peoples, Elizabeth Rader, Jeremy Seteroff and Jamerson Watts; Airmen Alan Cardy, Michael Dickinson, Todd Fedele, Christopher Floyd, Max Gianelloni and John Werth; Airmen 1st Class Casey Conley, Aaron Eiler, Stuart Hayden, Andrea Wade and Jason Williams.

335th TRS

Weather training flight — Airmen Basic Corey Eubanks, Sara Fishback and Lauren Snyder; Airmen Toni Bajkowski, Eric Blain, Dale Cain, Kyle Gossen, Tara Husband, Andrew Johnson, Jessie Peterson, Lindsey Ryiz and Tiffani Sineath; Airmen 1st Class Kyle Blair, Magen McClenahan, Jessie Peterson and Quinn Simmons; Navy Airmen Sean Arnold, Vanessa Barriga, Miaya Whitehead and Maurice Wimpigler; Senior Airman Michael Kolenic; Staff Sgt. Louisoly Meyers; Tech. Sgt. Keith LeBlond, William Stones and Thomas Young; Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Lee Brittle.

CHAPEL SERVICES

Editor's note: This listing reflects changes to the worship schedule in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Roman Catholic

Sunday Mass

Larcher Chapel.....10 a.m.

Daily Mass

Larcher Chapel.....11:15 a.m.

Tagalog worship

5:30 p.m. Wednesdays, rosary; 5:45 p.m. Our Lady of Perpetual Help novena; 6 p.m. Mass, Our Lady of Fatima Church, 2090 Pass Road, Biloxi. For more information, call 388-3887.

Protestant

Sunday worship

Larcher Chapel traditional service.....8:30 a.m.
Fishbowl student contemporary service.....10 a.m.
Larcher Chapel praise and worship service.....11:30 a.m.
Larcher Chapel gospel service.....1 p.m.

Islamic

Building 2003 — for international students, temporary duty and permanent party; prayer five times daily; Salaat ul-Jummah congregational prayer, noon Friday.

For more information, call 377-2520 or 0327.

Latter-Day Saints

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints — student group service, 4:30 p.m. Sundays, Fishbowl.

338th TRS

Computer, network, cryptographic and switching systems course — Airmen Basic Grant Lehmann, Ian McDevitt, Christopher Roe and Joshua Yennie; Airmen Nicholas Buroker, Evan Henderson and Kenneth Williams; Airmen 1st Class Todd Allen, Joshua Beavers, William Crain, David Hinojos, Joseph Lambert, Denny Lora, Andrew Lower, Justin Melcher, Grant Meyers, Joseph Moore, Michael Morgan, Jeffrey Mueller, Marshal Nix, James Nottle, Edgar Olivares, Justin Wade, Logan White, Cory William and Matthew Worley; Senior Airmen David Pitcher and Kacy Whalen; Staff Sgts. Vernal Ballew, Jason Bouchard and Jason McCash.

CLASSES

Airman Leadership School

Classes haven't resumed yet.

First Term Airmen Center

Classes scheduled to resume in January.

Keesler NCO Academy

Next class Nov. 7-Dec. 16 at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. No decision has been made about other classes at this time.

PROMOTIONS

2005 Air Force Personnel Center boards

Through Oct. 21 — chief master sergeant evaluation.

Oct. 25-27 — Air National Guard colonel, second session.

Nov. 14-18 — colonel, lieutenant colonel and major MC, DC.

Dec. 5-16 — major line, CHAP, JAG, BSC, MSC.

TRANSITIONS

Employment assistance

National Reconnaissance Office — advanced education opportunities offered through the fiscal 2006 Air Force Institute of Technology program. Twenty-three positions are offered to meet the NRO's advanced academic degree needs starting in fall 2006; extremely competitive process for exceptional personnel. The NRO directly supports the undersecretary of the Air Force (space) and is a 100-percent selectively manned unit. After the degree is earned in the allotted time, candidates complete a four-year follow-on assignment in NRO space acquisition or operations. Most assignments in Washington, D.C., area. Applicants must meet AFIT eligibility requirements for academic average and Graduate Record Exam scores. Most personnel selected are non-rated captains and lieutenants. For more information and application requirements, call 1st Lt. Hanna Chang, 377-7018.

International affairs specialist — offers competitive officers at the mid-career opportunity to prepare for international political-military assignments to provide full career opportunity within their primary Air Force Specialty Code. Training begins in spring/summer 2006. Those who finish the two-program earn an advanced degree in specialties such as area studies, international affairs or national security studies., basic training in a specific language of their area of study, and possible advanced language training through in-country immersion. Officers must have at least seven years commissioned service and at least one year time on station as of June 1, 2006. Officers in medical, chaplain and judge advocate career fields aren't considered. For more information, go to <https://www.my.af.mil/iaw/iaw>, or call Maj. Frank Sweekosky, DSN 665-4071, or the IAS team, DSN 425-8349 or 8321.

DINING HALL MENUS

Today

Lunch — orange-spiced pork chops, braised liver with onions, fried fish, rissole potatoes, rice, gravy, broccoli, peas and carrots, wax beans, fruit salad, potato salad, chicken and wild rice soup, chili buffalo wings and cream of broccoli soup.

Dinner — baked chicken, pepper steak, pasta primavera, mashed potatoes, rice, gravy, mixed vegetables, fried okra, green beans, potato salad, fruit salad, cream of broccoli soup, chicken and wild rice soup, chili, buffalo wings and roast beef subs.

Friday

Lunch — seafood newburg, bean and corn pie, roast turkey, cornbread, franconia potatoes, pea and pepper rice, gravy, corn on the cob, stewed tomatoes, mustard greens, pasta salad, three-bean salad, clam chowder, vegetable soup, frontier chicken chili, barbecue pork and burritos.

Dinner — corned beef, cornbread, pineapple chicken, Yankee pot roast, potato wedges, simmered potatoes, gravy, fried cabbage, carrots, blackeyed peas, three-bean salad, clam chowder, garden vegetable soup, frontier chicken chili, barbecue pork sandwich and burritos.

Saturday

Lunch — baked chicken, Swedish meatballs, creole shrimp, baked potatoes, rice, gravy, creamed corn, asparagus, steamed squash, fruit salad, kidney bean salad, country bean soup, chicken gumbo, chili and chicken nuggets.

Dinner — baked fish, Hungarian goulash, barbecue chicken, potatoes, rice, gravy, stir-fry vegetables, baked beans, creamed corn, fruit salad, kidney bean salad, country bean soup, chicken gumbo, chili and chicken nuggets.

Sunday

Lunch — oven-fried fish, Cantonese spare ribs, grilled mustard chicken breast, baked macaroni and cheese, noodles, gravy, peas, sweet potatoes, broccoli combo, country style tomato salad, jellied spring salad, hearty vegetable soup, Italian wedding soup, chicken chili and cheese pizza.

Dinner — stir-fry beef with broccoli, turkey nuggets, loin strip steak, mushroom and onion sauce, baked potatoes, rice pilaf, gravy, corn on the cob, green beans, jellied spring salad, tomato salad, vegetable beef soup, Italian wedding soup, frontier chicken chili and cheese pizza.

Monday

Lunch — beef pot roast, baked stuffed fish, roast pork loin, oven-brown potatoes, rice, gravy, califlower combo, succotash, green beans, cottage cheese salad, macaroni salad, chicken dumpling soup, minestrone, chili with beans, Polish sausage and steak and cheese subs.

Dinner — chili macaroni, cornbread, beef canelloni, fried chicken, cottage fries, mashed potatoes, gravy, steamed squash, glazed carrots, peas, cottage cheese salad, macaroni salad, chicken dumpling soup, minestrone soup, chili with beans, grilled sausage and steak and cheese subs.

Tuesday

Lunch — teriyaki chicken, veal parmesan, salmon cakes, garlic toast, filipino rice, parsley buttered potatoes, gravy, fried cabbage, succotash, mixed vegetables, fruit cocktail salad, spinach salad, bean with ham soup, chicken noodle soup, white chicken chili, barbecue beef sloppy joes and roast beef subs.

Dinner — country captain chicken, meatloaf, turkey a la king, rice, mashed potatoes, gravy, garlic toast, harvard beets, mustard greens, okra tomato gumbo, fruit cocktail salad, spinach salad, bean with ham soup, chicken noodle soup, white chicken chili, barbecue beef sloppy joes and roast beef subs.

Wednesday

Lunch — lasagna, spaghetti with meat sauce, chicken cacciatore, noodles, baked potatoes, baked beans, green beans, simmered squash, Mexican coleslaw, frijole salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and Monte Cristo sandwich.

Dinner — lemon-herb chicken, barbecue ribs, jalapeno cornbread, stuffed pork chops, scalloped potatoes, rice, gravy, cauliflower combo, Mexican corn, tempura vegetables, Mexican coleslaw, frijole salad, pasta fagioli soup, chicken tortilla soup, vegetarian chili, cheese fishwich and Monte Cristo sandwich.